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FLOOR DEBATE

March 21, 2002      LB 1309

space in the Atrium and the Centrum. We don't have any more people in the state, relatively speaking, than we had in 1961; don't have any more cattle or any more hogs in the state than we had in 1961, but we can provide services that are just amazing. Look what's happened to the services we've provided in this state in those years. I like to think of myself as being somewhat of a...not a hard rock conservative but when I think about those things I become more conservative, and I wish we would think about those things as we progress through these deliberations today and try to erase, in my mind, the fact that I think the bureaucracies feel that they are failing if they are not expanding and growing. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Dierks. Senator Beutler. Senator Beutler waives his opportunity. Senator Baker.

SENATOR BAKER: Thank you, Senator Cudaback, and members. Senator Dierks just stole my thunder. I...I can repeat what he said and I will try to somewhat, I guess. This is going to be painful for everyone and we are not willing to step up to the plate yet at this stage of debate I guess. We just turned down the Redfield amendment and I voted for it, and it's painful. I'm a university graduate, an alum; I love the university but someplace, along the line we're going to have to start stepping up to the plate and saying, okay, we're going to cut this in LB 1309, or where are we going to cut Medicaid, or what are we going to do here? And I'm with Senator Dierks, I haven't had a single person out in my district say, yep, we've got a revenue problem here, folks. They are saying, whoa, we've got a spending problem. Revenue is still growing here, 2.8 percent. If you want to have a revenue problem, go ahead and increase taxes. We will just exasperate the problem here. We're going to get ourselves into a real hole and if we can't adjust spending, and I repeat what Senator Dierks says, I can remember when the whole state office, old offices were here in the Capitol. We're spread all over this town of Lincoln now. We've all got to share in this and it's going to be painful, but I guess people aren't yet up to that point yet to say, well, we're going to have to do some of these things, and if we postpone it to Select File, we're just going to pile problems upon problems. We can't expect our taxpayers out there to pay more. That's the